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Listing of Claims:

Claim 14 (previously presented): A system according to claim 25, wherein

- the substance or its storage container includes a data carrier portion where the second information is stored, and wherein
- the evaluating device comprises
  - a comparator for comparing the read second information with the stored authorizing information, and
  - an enabling controller for at least one functional component of the item of equipment.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A system according to claim 14, wherein the data carrier portion has a first region where only the first information is stored, and a second region where the second information is stored.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A system according to claim 14, including at least one reference marking at the data carrier portion for orienting the reading device.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A system according to claim 15, wherein

- the first information stored at the first region of the data carrier portion is formed by a machine-readable code, and
- wherein the second information stored at the second region of the data carrier portion is formed by a trademark.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A system according to claim 15, wherein

- the first region of the data carrier portion has a multiplicity of lines of a binary pixel code, the binary pixel code containing the first machine-readable information, and
- wherein the second region of the data carrier portion has a plurality of lines of a pixel code which together form the second information.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A system according to claim 15, including a machine-readable limit marking comprising at least one blank line provided between the first region of the data carrier portion and the second region of the data carrier portion.

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Claim 20 (previously presented): A system according to claim 16, wherein the reference marking has a frame extending around at least one of the first and second regions of the data carrier portion.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A system according to claim 18, wherein the binary pixel code of at least one of the lines has a row of adjacently lying bit markings of a binary representation of an item of information.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A system according to claim 21, including binary bit markings for a check digit for the binary representation of the information in each line.

Claims 23-24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (previously presented): A system for controlling the operation of an item of equipment by identifying and authenticating a substance handled by the item of equipment, the system comprising first machine-readable information concerning the substance and second information that can be detected by a human eye and is distinctive to a human viewer, the first and second informations being applied to the substance or to the container for the substance, a reading device adapted to read the first information and the second information, a memory storing authorizing information for the substance, and an evaluating device for comparing read second information with the authorizing information stored in the memory, the evaluating device enabling the operation of the item of equipment when the read second information coincides with the stored authorizing information by generating an enabling signal permitting operation of the item of equipment, and not enabling the operation of the item of equipment when the read second information does not coincide with the stored authorizing information.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A method for controlling the operation of an item of equipment that handles a substance comprising applying first information which is dependent on the substance and is machine-readable to a first region associated with the substance, applying second information which is detectable by a human eye and distinctive to a human viewer to a second region associated with a substance, storing an information sample which corresponds to the second information, reading and decoding the machine-readable first information present at the first region, reading the second information present at the second

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region, comparing the read second information of the second region with the stored information sample, generating a signal when the read second information coincides with the stored information sample which permits operation of the item of equipment, and preventing the operation of the item of equipment when the read second information does not coincide with the stored information sample.

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